

REMARKS

The processes of the present invention, as described in the present specification, advantageously provide methods for recycling that benefit Applicant but also promote environmental quality. In order to obtain a patent at the earliest possible date and promote commercialization of the process, Applicant presents amended claims to overcome all of the prior issues raised by the Examiner. These amendments are made without prejudice to Applicant's ability to pursue the broader claims that Applicant is entitled to in a continuation application.

I. PENDING CLAIMS AND SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, 21-38 will be pending in this application.

Claim 21 has been previously presented, however, is amended herein. Claims 22-38 generally correspond to the previously presented dependent claims 2-13, 15, 16 and 18-21.

Support for the amendments to claim 21 can be found in paragraphs 19, 20, 21 and the Examples provided in the present Specification. Support for new claims 22-38 may also be found in paragraphs 19-25 and the Examples provided in the present Specification.

II. WRITTEN DESCRIPTION REJECTION

Previous claims 1-9, 21, 13, 15, 16 and 18-20, and current claim 21 (prior to amendment) stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as lacking adequate written description and for lack of enablement. These rejections are

respectfully traversed, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

Applicant has amended claim 21, and written the new claims, to overcome this rejection. For example, claim 21 has been amended to remove the limitation “less than 45 minutes” and instead describe the relationship among pressure, temperature and dissolution time, wherein the relationship is such that nylon is dissolved. As noted by the Examiner, and known to those having ordinary skill in the art, there is a relationship among pressure, temperature and the time in which nylon will dissolve. The present specification clearly describes and enables a process wherein a nylon containing material, such as portions of a carpet tile, are introduced into a vessel having temperature and pressures within the ranges defined in claim 21, until nylon is dissolved. As such, claim 21 is clearly supported by the present specification.

In addition, the ranges recited in the new claims are supported and enabled in the written description and the Examples of the present specification.

III. REJECTIONS OVER YANG ET AL.

The Examiner had rejected prior claims 1-13 and 15-21 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,036,726). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Yang et al. has been extensively discussed during the prosecution history of the present application.

The presently presented claims have been amended to further delineate the differences between the claimed process and the processes disclosed in Yang et al. in

order to expedite their allowance. Even assuming for the sake of argument that Yang et al. discloses pressures and temperatures which may overlap the presently claimed ranges, Yang et al. does not suggest the presently claimed process which includes a combination of defined steps. Further, Yang et al. is silent with respect to the yield from his process, wherein the presently claimed process seeks a desired yield, and the Examples of the present specification describe processes with yields of up to 100%.

CONCLUSION

The present claims are clear and definite, fully supported by an adequate and enabling written description, and define novel and nonobvious subject matter. They are in condition for immediate allowance. An early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Order Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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